

OFFICIAL BIO OF GOVERNOR HALEY BARBOUR

Haley Barbour is the 63rd Governor of Mississippi. He was elected on November 4, 2003, in the largest turnout in a gubernatorial election in state history.

Since becoming Governor he has been focused on job creation. Governor Barbour led the fight against lawsuit abuse in Mississippi and helped pass the Tort Reform Act of 2004 - legislation The Wall Street Journal called "one of the most comprehensive legal reform bills in the nation." He also initiated the largest overhaul of workforce development efforts in state history and significantly increased funding for job training.

Governor Barbour organized "Momentum Mississippi" - the state's long-range economic development strategy group which is composed of state business and community leaders. In his first year, Mississippi had the largest increase in net new jobs since 1999 and the largest increase in personal income since 1998.

This year Governor Barbour introduced Mississippi's most comprehensive education reform legislation in almost 25 years. His "Upgrade Education Reform" package rewards teacher and

school performance, reduces state bureaucracy and strengthens discipline in Mississippi public schools.

In keeping with his pledge to clean up state budget problems he inherited, Governor Barbour introduced “Operation: Streamline”— the largest cost-saving plan in state history—and successfully opposed tax increases on Mississippi citizens.

Governor Barbour has re-focused Mississippi on the fight against drugs by pushing tougher crystal meth laws and reorganizing the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics. As a result, drug arrests are up 73% during his term.

Governor Barbour has also led the fight to save Mississippi’s struggling Medicaid program, encouraging preventative care for recipients and implementing the strongest anti-fraud plan in the history of Mississippi Medicaid.

Governor Barbour has worked to protect the unborn. He initiated and passed six Pro-Life laws during 2004 that make Mississippi “the safest place in America for an unborn child,” according to national right-to-life organization, Americans United for Life.

In the mid-'80's, Governor Barbour advised President Ronald Reagan for nearly two years as Director of the White House Office of Political Affairs.

From 1993 to January 1997, Governor Barbour served two terms as Chairman of the Republican National Committee, including the 1994 elections when Republicans won GOP control of both houses of Congress for the first time in forty years and increased the number of Republican governors rose from 17 to 32.

Governor Barbour founded and formerly served as Chair and CEO of Barbour Griffith and Rogers, which Fortune magazine ranked the nation's top lobbying firm.

He is a native of Yazoo City where he lives with his wife, Marsha. They have two adult sons. Governor Barbour is a Deacon in the First Presbyterian Church of Yazoo City where he has also taught Sunday School.

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